

MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED SPECIFICATION PARAGRAPHS:

Amend the following paragraphs as follows (the information in parenthesis preceding each paragraph denotes the location of the paragraph):

(Page 1, ln. 27 - page 2, ln.4)

The gradient fields commonly are added by gradient coils disposed adjacent to the pole surfaces. Eddy currents can be induced in the ferromagnetic poles as the current in the gradient coils is varied. The eddy currents, in turn, induce their own magnetic fields. This effect is undesirable because it lengthens the time it takes for the gradient flux to stabilize at the desired amplitude, and creates undesirable variations in the magnetic field which cause a loss of image quality.

(Page 7, lns. 9-16)

As shown in FIG. 1, a tubular sleeve 12 is also provided. This sleeve 12 is composed of a dielectric material and is generally porous. Preferably, the porous dielectric is a mesh formed from a fibrous glass material, such as .006 thick Litewall-brand insulation, untreated without impregnated epoxy fiberglass sleeving. One ferromagnetic rod 10 is placed within each sleeve 12 thus covering the entire rod in the length 1 direction. Each sleeve 12 may be provided as a ~~tubular~~-tube which is slid lengthwise over the rod. Alternatively, the sleeves may be formed in place on the rods by winding a porous fabric tape onto each rod.

(Page 8, lns. 9-15)

When the mold 20 is free of voids, the dielectric bonding material 22 is allowed to cure by ramp up from ambient temperature to 277° and holding at 277 °F for 10 hrs. before turning off to let cool to room temperature. Once the dielectric bonding material 22 has cured, an intermediate element 24 is

Application No. 09/577,476

formed—24, as shown in FIG. 3. The intermediate element 24 is removed from the mold 20 by removing the cover and backing off the pressure plates of the mold. The intermediate element has a lengthwise direction corresponding to the axial direction of rods 10.

REMARKS

The present communication is responsive to the Official Action mailed March 6, 2002. A Petition for a two-month extension of the term for response to the Official Action, to and including August 6, 2002, is transmitted herewith.

Initially, applicant notes that although the Office Action Summary indicated that all the pending claims in the application were rejected, namely claims 7-24, in the Detailed Action the Examiner neglected to provide a substantive basis supporting the rejection of claims 17 and 18. Nevertheless, applicant respectfully submits that claims 17 and 18 are indeed novel and non-obvious based on the arguments set forth hereinbelow.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 7, 13, 19, and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 3,849,878 to Rudd, et al., (hereinafter Rudd).

In addition, claims 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rudd. Claims 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rudd in view of U.S. Patent 5,446,434 to Dorri et al., (hereinafter Dorri). Claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rudd in view of Dorri and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,50,819 to Laskaris, et al., (hereinafter Laskaris). The Examiner also rejected claims 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Rudd in view of Laskaris.

Applicant has also amended the specification to improve its form by correcting the typographical errors indicated hereinabove. Applicant respectfully submits that these corrections do not constitute new matter.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections of claims 7-16 and 19-24.

With respect to claims 7, 13, 19, and 20-22, the Examiner asserts that Rudd discloses a block 26 "including a

plurality of ferromagnetic rods extending sided-by-side in a lengthwise direction". The Examiner, however, mischaracterizes Rudd. In particular, the cores 24 of Rudd's block 26 comprise "a magnetic wire core 12, such as of a copper wire" (Rudd, col. 2, lns. 13-16 and col. 2, ln. 65 to col. 3, ln. 1; see also col. 3, lns. 28-32 and col. 1, lns. 10-12.) Rudd teaches manufacture of multiple electrical elements by winding a wire on core 12, placing these cores in a block of plastic material 26 and performing various other operations, including slicing the block to produce the electrical elements. (Id., col. 2, ln. 65 to col. 3, ln. 24.) However, Rudd's patent does not disclose, teach or suggest the use of "ferromagnetic rods." Rudd's block 26 includes magnet wire core formed from copper. Of course, magnetic wire core formed from copper is not a ferromagnetic material and, accordingly, Rudd does not disclose, teach or suggest "providing an intermediate element including a plurality of elongated ferromagnetic rods" as is recited in claim 7.

Rudd, therefore, does not anticipate applicant's claim 7. Likewise, Rudd does not anticipate applicant's claims 13, 19, and 20-22 since these claims, either directly or indirectly, depend from claim 7. Further in this regard, with respect to claim 19 Rudd does not disclose, teach or suggest covering the rod with a dielectric sleeve as is asserted by the Examiner. Rudd's insulating layer 14 and protection layer 18 are simply not dielectric sleeves. Only applicant's claims and description disclose a dielectric sleeve. With regard to claim 20, Rudd does not disclose placing a rod in a mold and curing the dielectric around the rod. Rudd's curing process first coats the rod "by spraying, painting, or dipping." (Id., col. 2, lns. 41-43.) After this coating processing the rod is then cured. Applicant respectfully submits that Rudd's coating and curing process does not further anticipate claim 20 because claim 20 recites "placing

said rods in a mold and curing said dielectric" With regard to claim 22, Rudd also further cannot be said to anticipate this claim because Rudd does not disclose a dielectric sleeve and, therefore, undoubtedly does not disclose placing a dielectric "between a dielectric sleeve and said rod."

Moreover, because all the other claims rejected by the Examiner also depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 7 Rudd does not provide a basis for rejecting these claims since none of the cited references remedy the deficiencies of Rudd. In particular, neither Dorri nor Laskaris disclose, teach or suggest "providing an intermediate element including a plurality of elongated ferromagnetic rods extending side-by-side in a lengthwise direction with a dielectric material therebetween." To wit, Dorri does not teach a method for making the shims described in Dorri and Laskaris' method is for making laminate tiles, which is entirely different than applicant's claim 7. (See Laskaris, col. 4, ln. 33 to col. 5, ln. 50.)

Specifically, with respect to claim 23, Rudd simply does not disclose a dielectric sleeve and therefore it simply would not have obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to glean from Rudd to construct a dielectric sleeve made of fiber glass; as previously noted, Rudd's insulating layer 14 coated on the rod. With regard to claim 24, Rudd's circular rods are far from suggestive of "substantially hexagonal" rods as recited in claim 24.

With regard to claims 8-12 and 14-16, to the extent that the cited references teach that which the Examiner asserts, applicant is unable to find any motivation in either Rudd, Dorri, or Laskaris to combine the references to obviate these claims as is asserted by the Examiner.

As such, Rudd, Dorri and Laskaris cannot be combined to obviate any of the pending claims. Furthermore, Rudd, Dorri, and

Application No. 09/577,476

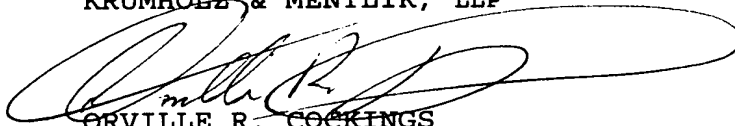
Laskaris also lack any motivation to combine the references in the manner suggested by the Examiner.

Based on the arguments presented above, applicants respectfully submit that all the pending claims are now allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7-24 and favorable consideration and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections that the Examiner might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Respectfully submitted,
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